To know your anſwere, whether you'l admit him.

Duke. With all my heart; ſome three or foure of you
Goe giue him courteous conduct to this place,
Meane time the Court ſhall heare *Bellarios* Letter.

Your Grace ſhall underſtand, that at the receite of your Letter I am very ſicke; but in the inſtant that your Meſſenger came, in louing viſitation was with me a young Doctor of Rome, his name is Balthazer: I acquainted him with the cauſe in controuerſie betweene the Iew and Anthonio the Merchant; we turned ore many Bookes together, hee is furniſhed with my opinion, which bettred with his owne learning, the greatneſſe whereof I cannot enough commend, comes with him at my importunity, to fill vp your Graces requeſt in my ſtead. I beſeech you, let his lacke of years be no impediment to let him lacke a reuerend eſtimation, for I neuer knew ſo young a body with ſo olde a head: I leaue him to your gracious acceptance, whoſe triall ſhall better publiſh his commendation.

Enter Portia for Balthazer.

Duke. You heare the learn'd *Bellario* what he writes,
And heere I take it is the Doctor come.
Giue me your hand, come you from old *Bellario*?

Por. I did my Lord.

Duke. You are welcome, take your place:
Are you acquainted with the difference
That holds this preſent queſtion in the Court.

Por. I am enformed throughly of the cauſe:
Which is the Merchant heere? and which the Iew?

Duke Anthonio and olde *Shylocke*, both ſtand foorth.

Por. Is your name *Shylocke*?

Iew. Shylocke is my name.

Por. Of a ſtrange nature is the ſute you follow,
Yet in ſuch rule, that the Venetian law
Cannot impunge you as you do proceed.
You ſtand within his danger, doe ye not?

Ant. I, ſo he ſayes.

Por.

Por. Do you confeſſe t
Ant. I do.
Por. Then muſt the *Ie*
Shy. On what compul
Por. The quality of m
It droppeth as the gentle
Vpon the place beneath
It bleſſeth him that giues
Tis mightieſt in the mig
The throned Monarch b
His ſcepter ſhewes the f
The attribute to awe an
Wherein doth ſit the dr
But mercy is aboue this
It is enthroned in the he
It is an attribute to God
And earthly power doth
When mercy ſeaſons iuſt
Though iuſtice be thy pl
That in the courſe of iu
Should ſee ſaluation: w
And that ſame prayer, do
The deeds of mercy. I ha
To mitigate the iuſtice o
Which if thou follow, th
Muſt needs giue ſentenc
Shy. My deeds vpon m
The penalty and forfeit o
Por. Is he not able to
Baſſ. Yes, heere I tend
Yea twice the ſumme, if
I will be bound to pay it
On forfeit of my hands,
If this will not ſuffize, it
That malice beares dow
Wreſt once the Law to

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22297) LONDON, 1600 [1619] THE BRITIS